

MILFORD HAVEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

for the year 1943

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1943.

Population

There has been no appreciable change in the civilian population during the year.

Births

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Legitimate	106	99
Illegitimate	4	8
Total -	217	

The birth rate has remained almost stationary during the last four years.

There were nine still-births, which compares with fifteen last year.

Deaths

<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
53	44	97

There were 13 deaths from cancer, compared with 17 in the previous year.

There was one death during child-birth.

Infantile Mortality

Number of deaths under one year - 8 - compared with 14 last year.

Midwives

There are six well trained midwives who pursue their calling with great skill and devotion. They have been greatly hampered in their work by overcrowding in the homes, and the lack of a maternity home.

Notifiable Diseases

<u>Disease</u>	<u>Total Notified</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Scarlet Fever	22	1	-
Diphtheria	0	-	-
Whooping Cough	5	-	-
Measles	5	-	-
Erysipelas	5	-	-
Pneumonia	12	-	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	-	-

With the exception of Pneumonia, there were no deaths from any of the notifiable infectious diseases.

Diphtheria

No cases occurred during the year. The following figures show the ~~all~~ in the incidence of diphtheria during the last few years -

<u>Year</u>	<u>No. of Cases.</u>
1943	0
1942	1
1941	1
1940	9
1939	23
Average of 1934 to 1938	47

Parents have shown great willingness to have their children immunised and at present this is one of the best immunised towns in the country.

Tuberculosis

Number notified - 23
Number of Deaths - 10

For the first time in many years, several patients have had to wait a long period for admission to Sanatoria. This is due to lack of nursing and domestic staff, and not to shortage of beds.

The number of notifications, which include those discharged from the Services, is the largest for many years; this is to be expected during war and is general throughout the country. The Government is doing a good deal to help the tuberculous by giving them priority in a supply of milk and other foods, and in addition a maintenance grant.

Food

Judging by outward appearance there has been no lack of food in the district. Indeed many, especially women, are steadily gaining weight. This is due chiefly to the preponderance in the diet of starchy food such as sausages, bread and potatoes. Milford is well supplied with vegetables of all kind, and notwithstanding the shortage of fish, almost every family manages to get a certain amount of fish every week; and as a rule they have it for nothing.

Special attention is paid to the needs of young children and ample supplies of milk, orange and black-current juices, cod-liver oil etc. are available for them, and pregnant women get priority in respect of milk and other foods.

Water

The quality and quantity of the water is very satisfactory; and the enormous demand has necessitated working the trunk main to capacity all the year round. A good deal of renewals were found necessary at the filter house but thanks to the ingenuity of your Engineer the service never failed. It is too early yet to tell the story of the Council's great contribution to the war effort in affording a plentiful supply of pure water to the Services, Hospitals, Factories etc. over a wide area; but it can be said that but for the Prescally water scheme many Services of vital importance would have been curtailed and to say a large area of the County would be a dry and thirsty land.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

H. C. Williams

Medical Officer of Health